



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

231 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Select Committee on Children Public Hearing  
February 26, 2009**

**Senate Bill 929, An Act Concerning The Removal Of A Child Or Youth  
From A Hospital Or Other Health Care Facility  
In Certain Juvenile Matters**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to Senate Bill 929, *An Act Concerning the Removal of a Child or Youth from a Hospital or Other Health Care Facility in Certain Juvenile Matters*. This bill seeks to prohibit a court from removing, or revoking the commitment of, a child or youth from a health care facility without first holding a hearing. The intention of this bill is unclear.

By way of background, children who are subjects of neglect or uncared for petitions often go in and out of hospitalization without oversight by the court; the role of the court is not to micromanage the placement of children committed to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), absent a problem. If it is the intention of the bill to compel the court to have a hearing each and every time the Department decides to remove a child from hospitalization, numerous, unnecessary court hearings will be added to the docket resulting in delay and an increased workload for the court.

If the intention of the bill is to compel the court to hold a hearing on the revocation of commitment of a child in a hospital, it is unnecessary as the court presently does not revoke commitments of children without a hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.